

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 07516 141138Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----050967 141140Z /20

O 141059Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3611
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
USMISSION SINAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7516

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, LE, IS
SUBJECT: UNIFIL: DAYAN LETTER TO WALDHEIM

REF: (A) USUN 02430, (B) TEL AVIV 7459

1. WE SPOKE JUNE 14 WITH ELY RUBINSTEIN, DAYAN'S FOREIGN
POLICY ADVISOR, ABOUT BACKGROUND OF DAYAN'S JUNE 13 LETTER
TO WALDHEIM. ACCORDING TO RUBINSTEIN, THE DAYAN MESSAGE
WAS MEANT TO CONVEY ISRAEL'S SERIOUS WORRY ABOUT THE
EVOLUTION OF EVENTS IN SOUTH LEBANON. RUBINSTEIN SAID THAT
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UNIFIL MIGHT WELL HAVE GOOD INTENTIONS, BUT THE GOI IS NOT
SURE OF UNIFIL'S ABILITY TO DELIVER THE GOODS. THE FRENCH
CONTINGENT IN TYRE BEGAN VIGOROUSLY, BUT AFTER A TIME AND
SOME VIOLENCE, IT STEPPED BACK. RUBINSTEIN SAID ISRAEL
FEARS THAT THE SORT OF PRESSURES WHICH PRODUCED THE CHANGED
FRENCH ATTITUDE MIGHT WELL MEAN THAT WITH THE PASSAGE OF
TIME THE UN WILL GRADUALLY RELAX ITS GRIP ON SOUTH LEBANON,

WHICH WOULD ALLOW AN INCREASE IN PALESTINIAN INFILTRATION. IN THAT CONTEXT, RUBINSTEIN REFERRED TO GENERAL BEN-GAL, COMMANDER OF THE NORTHERN FRONT, WHO REMARKED LAST EVENING THAT THE LEBANESE PROBLEM IS NOT LIKE THAT OF SINAI, WHERE ISRAEL HAS LARGE DISTANCES TO PROTECT IT. ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ARE NEXT DOOR TO THE LEBANESE BORDER AND VULNERABLE. THUS, IN ISRAEL'S VIEW IF UNIFIL DOESN'T DO ITS JOB PROPERLY, THE DRIFT OF EVENTS WILL PROBABLY BE TOWARD RENEWED PALESTINIAN ROCKET ATTACKS FROM SOUTH LEBANON. SHOULD THAT HAPPEN, DAYAN'S MESSAGE IMPLICITLY REMINDS ALL CONCERNED THAT ISRAEL WILL REACT.

2. EVRON HAS ASKED AMBASSADOR TO SEE HIM JUNE 15 TO DISCUSS LEBANON. WE EXPECT MORE OF THE SAME AT THAT MEETING. LEWIS

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